

L4: Entry 1 of 3

File: USPT

Mar 28, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6044363

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6044363 A

TITLE: Automatic auction method

DATE-ISSUED: March 28, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Mori; Masakatsu	Yokohama	N/A	N/A	JPX
Ogura; Masahiro	Sakura	N/A	N/A	JPX
Takeshima; Masahiro	Tokyo	N/A	N/A	JPX
Arai; Kenji	Tokyo	N/A	N/A	JPX

ASSIGNEE INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Hitachi, Ltd.	Tokyo	N/A	N/A	JPX	03

APPL-NO: 8/ 916154

DATE FILED: September 2, 1997

FOREIGN-APPL-PRIORITY-DATA:

COUNTRY APPL-NO

APPL-DATE

8-233918 JΡ September 4, 1996

INT-CL: [7] G06F 17/60
US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37, 705/8, 705/26, 705/27, 705/37, 705/38, 395/286
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37, 705/26, 705/27, 705/38, -205/8, 710/106

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/37, 705/26, 705/27, 705/38, 395/286

REF-CITED:

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	Search Selecte	d Search ALL	
PAT-NÔ	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
4789928	December 1988	Fujisaki	N/A
5136501	August 1992	Silverman et al.	705/38
5689652	November 1997	Lupien et al.	705/37
5826244	October 1998	Huberman	705/37
5835896	November 1998	Fisher et al.	705/37
5890138	March 1999	Godin et al.	705/26
5905974	May 1999	Fraser et al.	705/37
5905975	May 1999	Ausubel	705/37

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY
628 920	December 1994	EPX
7-073251	March 1995	JPX
1489571	October 1977	GBX
WO92/15174	March 1992	WOX

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Is there a future in wholesale marketplaces", edited by Shigeo Akitani/Food distribution study society and published by Japan economic newspaper company, 1996, pp. 140-143.
Haggle Online, Proxy Bidding, http://www.haggle.com/proxy.html, 1996.
eBay Inc, Proxy Bidding, http://pages.ebay.com/aw/proxy-bidding.html, 1995.
eBay Inc, Proxy Bidding, http://pages.ebay.com/aw/help/help-t-bid-prxy.html,

eBay Inc, Bidding, http://pages.ebay.com/aw/nut-bid4.html, 1995.

ART-UNIT: 274

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Trammell; James P. ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Nguyen; Nga B. ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Beall Law Offices

ABSTRACT:

In automatic auction method which makes it unnecessary for bidders to stay before auction terminals at the time of auction and which makes possible auction transactions on an open network on which it is difficult to assure the on-line and real time properties, a plurality of auction ordering information pieces each containing a desired price, number of purchase, and a highest (\approx wex. weight possible price in competition for the desired price and received from bidder terminals via on-line circuits are collected. Until an auction issue appears, the price is lowered. If there is at least one auction issue and a desired quantity which is the sum total of the numbers of purchase of the auction issues is not satisfied, then it is determined whether there is an auction issue coinciding in price by comparing the set price with (the desired price+the highest possible price in competition). Until the desired quantity is satisfied, the price is raised.

16 Claims, 20 Drawing figures

WEST

Generate Collection

L4: Entry 1 of 3

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Mori; Masakatsu	Yokohama	N/A	N/A	JPX
Ogura; Masahiro	Sakura	N/A	N/A	JPX
Takeshima; Masahiro	Tokyo	N/A	N/A	JPX
Arai; Kenji	Tokyo	N/A	N/A	JPX

US-CL-CURRENT: 205/32; 205/26, 205/27, 205/38, 205/8, 210/106

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An auction method, comprising the following steps:

receiving ordering information from remote bidders, the ordering information including a desired price, number of product purchases and a highest possible price for each remote bidder; and

conducting an automated auction procedure whereby the desired prices included in said ordering information are compared to determine an initial highest product price;

wherein, if two or more bidders have competing desired prices, a successful bidder is determined on the basis of the largest highest possible price included in said ordering information; but if no bidders have competing desired prices, a successful bidder is determined on the basis of the largest desired price included in said ordering information.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein participation of the remote bidders in the auction is effected by the steps of:

displaying auction information to the remote bidders, said auction information being received by the remote bidders via an on-line circuit;

each of the bidders selecting an auction subject specified by an operator out of displayed subjects;

creating, for said selected subject, the auction ordering information including the desired price, number of product purchases, and the highest possible price in competition for the desired price; and

transmitting said auction ordering information to an auctioneer terminal.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein for each selected subject, a flag

- 3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein for each selected subject, a flag specifying whether participation in the auction should be conducted after effecting a successful bid once is added to said auction ordering information and transmitted.
- 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said number of product purchases is specified by any one method selected from constant quantity designation, quantity range designation, and remaining quantity designation.

 5. A method of claimed in claim 1, wherein a flag specifying whether a purchase
- 5. A method of claimed in claim 1, wherein a flag specifying whether a purchase should be conducted even if an available number of products for purchase is less than the desired number is included in the ordering information.
- 6. An auction method according to claim 5, wherein said number of product purchases is specified by using a constant quantity designation or a quantity range designation, and

in said step (b), an auction issue is judged to be present if the available number of products is equal to or greater than a lower limit value in the case

of the quantity range designation, and an auction issue is judged to be present if the available number of products is equal to or greater than a desired quantity in the case of the constant quantity designation.

7. A medium for storing a program for performing the method of claim 1, said program creating information for participating in the auction by using a computer, said program conducting processing, said processing comprising: displaying information about an auction received via an on-line circuit; selecting an auction subject specified by an operator out of displayed subjects;

creating, for said selected subject, auction ordering information including a desired price, number of product purchases, and a highest possible price in competition for the desired price; and

transmitting said auction ordering information to an auctioneer terminal via an on-line circuit.

8. An auction method, comprising the following steps:

receiving ordering information from remote bidders, the ordering information including a desired price, number of product purchases and a highest possible price for each remote bidder; and

conducting an automated auction procedure whereby the desired prices included in said ordering information are compared to determine an initial highest product price and, if two or more bidders have competing desired prices, determining a successful bidder on the basis of the largest highest possible price included in said ordering information;

wherein the conducting step includes the following steps:

(a) setting an auction price;

(b) determining whether any auction ordering information exists with a desired price coinciding with said set auction price;

(c) if such auction ordering information exists in step (b) and the associated number of product purchases is satisfied for the auction ordering information, settling corresponding transactions, lowering said auction price, and then proceeding to said step (b), and

if such auction ordering information exists in the step (b) and the associated number of product purchases is not satisfied, raising said auction price and then proceeding to step (e);

(d) if no auction ordering information exists in the step (b), lowering the auction price, and proceeding to said step (b),

(e) determining whether a condition exists wherein the set auction price is greater than a sum of said desired price and said highest possible price in competition;

(f) if the condition of said step (e) is satisfied and the desired number of product purchases is satisfied, settling corresponding transactions and proceeding to said step (b), but

proceeding to said step (b), but if the condition of said step (e) is not satisfied, raising the price and proceeding to said step (e); and

(g) conducting an auction by repeating processing of said steps (b) to (f) until all available products are exhausted or a fixed price is reached.

9. An auction method according to claim 8, wherein in said step (c), the desired number of product purchases is judged to be satisfied, if: a sum total of numbers of purchases of fixed amount bidders each issuing auction ordering information with an amount condition specified by a constant quantity;

a sum total of lower limit values of desired ranges of first variable amount bidders who are bidders each issuing auction ordering information with an amount condition specified by a quantity range designation and who have nonzero lower limit values of desired ranges;

a number of second variable amount bidders who are bidders each issuing auction ordering information with an amount condition specified by a quantity range designation and who have zero lower limit values of desired ranges; and a number of all amount bidders each issuing auction ordering information with an amount condition specified by a total quantity of available products is less than or equal to the available number of products.

10. An auction method according to claim 8, wherein said steps (c) and (f) comprise the steps of:

settling the transactions by allocating the available products to fixed amount bidders with the desired number of products in the auction ordering information being specified by a constant quantity, and allocating the available products to first variable amount bidders who are bidders each issuing auction ordering information with a desired number of product purchases specified by a quantity range designation and who have nonzero lower limit values of desired ranges;

and

- if products remain, and there are bidders issuing auction ordering information with a desired number of products specified by a total quantity, said first variable amount bidders, and second variable amount bidders who are bidders each issuing auction ordering information with an amount condition specified by a quantity range designation and who have zero lower limit values of desired ranges, allocating the product to the bidders so as not to exceed the desired number of products for said first variable amount bidders and said second variable amount bidders, and so as to allocate equal quantities to the bidders, to thereby settle the transactions.
- 11. An auction method according to claim 8, wherein if a rise of the price has exceeded a predetermined fixed value in the step (f), the transaction is settled by allocating the product to bidders in competition according to a fixed procedure.
- 12. An auction method according to claim 8, wherein if all bidders are removed from the auction as a result of a price rise, the transaction is settled by allocating the product to bidders in competition in an immediately preceding price state according to a fixed procedure.
- 13. An auction method according to claim 11, wherein said fixed procedure comprises allocating the available products to fixed amount bidders with the desired number of products in the auction ordering information being specified by a constant quantity, and first variable amount bidders who are bidders each issuing auction ordering information with a desired number of product purchases specified by a quantity range designation and who have nonzero lower limit values of desired ranges, in a descending order of the constant quantity of the fixed amount bidders and a lower limit value of the range designation of said first variable amount bidders.
- 14. An auction method according to claim 13, wherein said fixed procedure further comprises allocating the product in the order of registration time of said auction ordering information if the constant quantities of said fixed amount bidders and the lower limit values of the range designations of said first variable amount bidders are the same.
- 15. An auction method, wherein the auction is conducted by an auctioneer terminal connected to one or more bidder terminals via a network, said method comprising the steps of:
- receiving ordering information from remote bidders, the ordering information including a desired price, number of product purchases and a highest possible price for each remote bidder; and
- conducting an automated auction procedure whereby the desired prices included in said ordering information are compared to determine an initial highest product price and, if two or more bidders have competing desired prices, determining a successful bidder on the basis of the largest highest possible price included in said ordering information;
- wherein the conducting step includes the steps:
- a) inputting the auction ordering information from each of said bidder terminals;
- b) setting an initial price value from input means;
- c) in response to existence of auction ordering information containing a
 desired price coinciding with said set price, notifying said bidder terminal of
 transaction settlement and terminating the processing;
 d) in response to nonexistence of auction ordering information containing a
- d) in response to nonexistence of auction ordering information containing a desired price coinciding with said set price, resetting said set price on the basis of an auction condition; and
- e) executing said step c) or said step d) on the basis of said reset price.

 16. An auction method, wherein the auction is conducted by an auctioneer
- terminal connected to one or more bidder terminals via a network, said automatic auction method comprising the steps of:
- receiving ordering information from remote bidders, the ordering information including a desired price, number of product purchases and a highest possible price for each remote bidder; and
- conducting an automated auction procedure whereby the desired prices included in said ordering information are compared to determine an initial highest product price and, if two or more bidders have competing desired prices, determining a successful bidder on the basis of the largest highest possible price included in said ordering information;
- wherein said conducting step includes the steps of:
- a) inputting the auction ordering information from each of said bidder terminals;
- b) setting an initial price value from input means;

- c) lowering said set price until an auction issue appears;d) if there is at least one issue and a sum total of the number of product purchases for the auction issues is not satisfied, determining whether there is an auction issue coinciding in price by determining whether the price set said step c) is less than or equal to a sum of said desired price and said highest possible price in competition to be added; and e) raising the price set at said step c) until said desired quantity is
- satisfied.

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End of Result Set

Generate Collection

L1: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

DC

Feb 15, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6026383

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6026383 A

TITLE: System and method for an efficient dynamic auction for multiple objects

DATE-ISSUED: February 15, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

Ausubel; Lawrence M.

NAME CITY

STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

20008

N/A

APPL-NO: 8/ 582901

DATE FILED: January 4, 1996

INT-CL: [7] G06F 157/00 US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37 US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 364/479.06, 705/10, 705/26, 705/35, 705/37, 707/104, 707/5,

NW. Washington

707/10

REF-CITED:

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		Search Selecte	d Search ALL	
	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<u> </u>	5235680	August 1993	Bijnagte	395/161
· 🔲	5283731	February 1994	Lalonde et al.	364/401

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FOREIGN-PAT-NO WO 96/34356

PUBN-DATE October 1996 COUNTRY

WOX

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R. P. McAfee and J. McMillan, "Auctions and Bidding", Journal of Economic Literature, vol. 25, Jun. 1987, pp. 699-738.
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ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Poinvil; Frantzy

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Morgan & Finnegan L.L.P.

ABSTRACT:

An automated system for conducting an auction and a method for operating the system. The system comprises a plurality of bid entry terminal and a bidding information processor communicatively coupled to the bid entry terminals. Bidders at the bid entry terminals observe displayed information and enter bids accordingly. The bidding information processor and the bid entry terminals communicate and process information in order to conduct an auction. The method involves conducting an auction in which the price paid by bidders is independent of their own bids, in which participants are provided with information concerning their competitors' bids as the auction progresses, and in which the confidentiality of high values is maintained.

- 25 Claims, 7 Drawing figures

DS

Set Items Description
S1 AUCTION? AND (MAXIMUM (3N) (MARGIN\$ OR EDGE?))

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t s1/3,k/1-11

1/3, K/1(Item 1 from file: 9) DIALOG(R) File 9:Business & Industry(R) (c) 2000 Resp. DB Svcs. All rts. reserv.

02575819 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULLTEXT)

WatersMolitor Conquers North America World PROS

(North American World PROs gives WatersMolitor (Minneapolis, MN) four Gold Awards and CDNow two Gold Awards for marketing campaigns)

Promo, v 12, n 10, p 23+

September 1999

(United States) DOCUMENT TYPE: Journal ISSN: 1047-1707

LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: Fulltex

WORD COUNT: 1252

(USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULLTEXT)

... Promotional Marketing (U.S.) for Nokia Mobile Phones

DIRECT/DATABASE: Mitchell, Landberg & Taylor for Manheim Auctions

DEALER/SALES FORCE: Royal Frown Co. (U.S.) for RC Edge Maximum Power Cola

INTERACTIVE: Louis Longon (U.S.) for Anheuser-Busch's Budweiser USE OF MEDIA...

1/3,K/2 (Item 1 from file: 16) DIALOG(R) File 16: Gale Group PROMT(R)

(c) 2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

Supplier Number: 54657633 (USE FORMAN) 7 FOR FULLTEXT)

Triarc Reports First Quarter 1999 Results.

Business Wire, p1200

May 18, 1999

Language: English Record Type: Fullter

Document Type: Newswire; Trade

Word Count: 2675

May, President and Chief Operating Officer of Triarc, noted: "Following the completion of our "Dotch Auction " tender offer in late April, our Board of Directors approved a \$30 million share repurchase...

...million for the comparable period in 1998.

In mid-March, RC began relling out RC Edge (tm), the "maximum power cola," which is specially formulated with energy enhancing ingredients and packaged in a 20...

1/3,K/3 (Item 2 from file: 16) DIALOG(R) File 16: Gale Group PROMT(R) (c) 2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

Supplier Number: 54295233 (USE FORMAT 7 FOR FULLTEXT) 06253737 Triarc Announces Fourth Quarter and Full Year 1998 Results and Sale of National Propane.

Business Wire, p1406

April 5, 1999

Language: English Record Type: Fulltext

Document Type: Newswire; Trade

Word Count: 4300

... and a primary supplier of flavor concentrate.

In mid-March, RC began relling out RC Edge (tm), the "maximum power cola," which is specially formulated with energy enhancing ingredients and packaged is a 20...than \$16 1/4 and not more than \$18 1/4, pursuant to a "Dutch Austion." The tender offer, proration period and withdrawal rights will expire at 12:00 midnight, New...

(Item 1 from file: 20) 1/3,K/4 DIALOG(R) File 20: World Reporter (c) 2000 The Dialog Corporation plc. All rts. reserv.

05360981 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULLTEXT) Triarc Reports First Quarter 1999 Results BUSINESS WIRE May 18, 1999

JOURNAL CODE: WBWE LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: **F**ØLLTEXT

WORD COUNT: 2269

(USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULLTEXT)

May, President and Chief Operating Officer of Triarc, noted: "Following the completion of our "Dutch Auction " tender offer in late April, our Board of Directors approved a \$30 million share repurchase...

...million for the comparable period in 1998.

In mid-March, RC began rolling out RC Edge (tm), the "maximum power cola," which is specially formulated with energy enhancing ingredients and packaged in a 20...

1/3,K/5 (Item 1 from file: 148) DIALOG(R) File 148: Gale Group Trade & Industry DB (c)2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

(USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT) SUPPLIER NUMBER: 54657633 11046434 Triarc Reports First Quarter 1999 Results.

Business Wire, 1200

May 18, 1999

LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: Fulltext WORD COUNT: 2148 LINE COUNT: 00281

May, President and Chief Operating officer of Triarc, noted: "Following the completion of our "Dutch Auction " tender offer in late April, our Board of Directors approved a \$30 million share repurchase...

...million for the comparable period in 1998.

In mid-March, RC began rolling out RC Edge (tm), the " maximum power cola," which is specially formulated with energy enhancing ingredients and packaged in a 20...

1/3,K/6 (Item 2 from file: 148) DIALOG(R) File 148: Gale Group Trade & Industry D (c) 2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

SUPPLIER NUMBER: 54295233 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT) 10927892 Triarc Announces Fourth Quarter and Full Year 1998 Results and Sale of National Propane.

Business Wire, 1406

April 5, 1999

LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYEE: Fulltext WORD COUNT: 3246 LINE COUNT: 00449

and a primary supplier of flavor concentrate. In mid-March, RC began rolling out RC page (tm), the "maximum power cola," which is specially formulated with energy enhancing ingredients and packaged in a 20...than \$16 1/4 and not more than \$18 1/4, pursuant to a "Dutch Auction." The tender offer, proration period and withdrawal rights will expire at 12.00 midnight, New...

(Item 1 from file: 621) 1/3,K/7 DIALOG(R) File 621: Gale Group New Prod. Annou. (R) (c) 2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

Supplier Number: 54657633 (USE FORMAT 7 FOR FULLTEXT) 01877180 Triarc Reports First Quarter 1999 Results.

Business Wire, p1200

May 18, 1999

Language: English Record Type: Fulltext

Document Type: Newswire; Trade

Word Count: 2675

May, President and Chief Operating Officer of Triarc, noted: "Following the completion of our "Dutch Auction " tender offer in late April, our Board of Directors approved a so million share repurchase...

...million for the comparable period in 1998.

In mid-March, RC began rolling out RC Edge (tm), the " maximum power cola," which is specially formulated with energy enhancing ingredients and packaged in a 20...

(Item 2 from file: 621) 1/3, K/8DIALOG(R) File 621: Gale Group New Prod. Annou. (R) (c) 2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

Supplier Number: 54295233 (USE FORMAT 7 FOR FULLTEXT) 01841316 Triarc Announces Fourth Quarter and Full Year 1998 Results and Sale of National Propane.

Business Wire, p1406

April 5, 1999

Language: English Record Type: Fulltext

Document Type: Newswire; Trade

Word Count: 4300

and a primary supplier of flavor concentrate.

In mid-March, RC began rolling out RC Edge (tm), the "maximum power cola," which is specially formulated with energy enhancing ingredients and packaged in a 20... Than \$16 1/4 and not more than \$18 1/4, pursuant to a "Dutch Auction ." The tender offer, proration period and withdrawal rights will expire at 12:00 midnight, New...

(Item 1 from f 1e: 627) DIALOG(R) File 627: EIU: Country Analysis (c) 2000 Economist Intelligence Unit. All rts. reserv.

3092769

Summary--Brazil 3rd quarter 1999

Main Title: Country Report Brazil 3rd quarter, 1999

COUNTRY: BRAZIL

JOURNAL: Country Reports - September 10, 1999

WORD COUNT: 463

...will remain impressively low, given the extent of January's devaluation, but is expected to edge up towards the maximum limit under government-set targets both this year and wext. The exchange rate will remain...

...last year, but export crops have performed poorly and dollar earnings are sharply down.

An auction of oil concessions was been a limited success, but a state electricity generator has fetched...

1/3,K/10 (Item 1 from file: 649) DIALOG(R) File 649: Gale Group Newswire ASAP(TM) (c) 2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

SUPPLIER NUMBER: 54657633 (USE FORMAT 7 or 9 FOR FULL TEXT) 02737924 Triarc Reports First Quarter 1999 Results.

Business Wire, 1200

May 18, 1999

LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: Fulltext WORD COUNT: 2148 LINE COUNT: 00281

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(Item 2 from file: 649) 1/3, K/11DIALOG(R) File 649: Gale Group Newswire ASAP (TM) (c) 2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

(USE FORMAT or 9 FOR FULL TEXT) 02700395 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 54295233 Triarc Announces Fourth Quarter and Full Year 1998 Results and Sale of National Propane.

Business Wire, 1406 April 5, 1999

LANGUAGE: English

RECORD TYPE: Fulltex WORD COUNT: 3246 LINE COUNT: 00449

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show files; ds

- File 9:Business & Industry(R) Jul/1994-2000/Sep 21
 - (c) 2000 Resp. DB Svcs.
- File 16: Gale Group PROMT (R) 1990-2000/Sep 22
 - (c) 2000 The Gale Group
- File 20:World Reporter 1997-2000/Sep 22
 - (c) 2000 The Dialog Corporation plc
- File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB 1976-2000/Sep 22 (c)2000 The Gale Group
- File 621:Gale Group New Prod. Annou. (R) 1985-2000/Sep 22
 - (c) 2000 The Gale Group
- File 627:EIU: Country Analysis 2000/Sep W3
 - (c) 2000 Economist Intelligence Unit
- File 649:Gale Group Newswire ASAP(TM) 2000/Sep 22
 - (c) 2000 The Gale Group